

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

19 February 2020

Report of the Head of Transformation - A.Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Crynant

Project Proposal made to the Members Community Fund

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to fund a project proposal that requests financial support under the Members Community Fund. The project has been tabled by the respective Ward Member.

Executive Summary

2. The Members Community Fund is to be used to address local needs and to support projects and initiatives that will contribute towards creating vibrant and sustainable communities.

The Project Development & Funding Unit (PDFU) within ELLL is charged with the governance of the Fund and will act as the Grant Management Organisation.

Bids can be made for projects that enhance existing Council services, assist voluntary sector provision or form part of a larger initiative that is in need of additional financial support.

Eligible projects will include those that enrich the environment, promote non - statutory education and learning, assist Health & Well Being, and promote culture and / or recreation in all its forms.

Another project proposal now seeks funding and has been formally submitted to the PDFU. The bid has been checked for completeness, accuracy and deliverability and is 'fit for purpose' and ready for determination by Cabinet.

Background

3. Convert and adapt an underutilised room at Creunant Primary School into a multi-functional venue for wider community use.

This bid has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services', and has been generated in partnership with the Local Authorities Building Surveying Officer.

The proposal is to repurpose an existing room by employing a contractor to paint the walls, ceiling and timberwork, and to install electrical cabling and ICT. The grant monies will also be used to procure new furniture including tables, inclusive seating with armrests and shelving. The room has already benefitted from the installation of hot water facilities and a dishwasher.

Once complete, the room will be used as a hub for intergenerational activity in the Ward of Crynant. The wider community, and particularly the elderly residents, will be invited to take part in various activities including IT sessions, cake decorating, cookery classes and a book club. The children and young people from the School will be involved in these sessions, and it is hoped that by having these contrasting age groups in attendance they will learn valuable life skills from one another. For example, the children will tutor the elderly in ICT skills and how to use the internet, and the older people will read stories to the children and show them how to prepare food. These sessions will be changed and adapted on a needs basis following ongoing

consultation between the School and local residents, parents and carers.

The need for the project has been identified by the Headteacher and the local Ward Member. The School recently held a Tea Dance where members of the local OAP group attended and danced with the children. This received a fantastic response, particularly from those who live alone and suffer from feelings of isolation and loneliness. The adapted room within the School will be used as a venue to formalise activities involving the older generation in an inclusive intergenerational environment.

The long term community benefits associated with the project include developing tangible links between the school and local residents, community members being upskilled in essential life skills, combating instances of loneliness and isolation, and improved health and wellbeing.

The total cost of this scheme is £9,575.56. The School has already secured £2,294.47 towards the project via contributions from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the school's allocated budget. The request for Grant aid from the Members Community Fund is for the remaining £7,281.09 from Councillor Sian Harris' portfolio. This would complete the funding package and make the proposal a reality.

Financial Impact

4. In order to win favour in Cabinet all projects must be sustainable. Projects must have a robust exit strategy that places no additional revenue or financial burden on the Council.

The project will be maintained using the School's allocated budget. Minor repairs will be undertaken by the School Caretaker. Any major issues will involve the Local Authority and consultation with the Building Surveying Officer. The capital works have been designed and competitively tendered using approved contractors from the Local Authority's Select Tender List, to ensure that they comply with Building Regulations and health and safety legislation.

The School has a very active PTA, who will continue to fundraise in order to improve provision at the School, for the benefit of pupils, parents, carers and the wider community of Crynant.

Integrated Impact Assessment

5. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010), the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well - being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in - depth assessment is not required as the summary concludes there are positive outcomes for the sustainable development principle, collaboration and involvement, with no impact on equalities or the Welsh language.

Valleys Communities Impacts

6. No implications

Workforce Impacts

7. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

8. The delivery of the Members Community Fund will come within the purview of the Local Government Act 2000 which introduced well-being powers which enable every Local Authority to have capacity to do anything which it considers likely to promote an improvement to economic, social or environmental well-being in the area. Under section 56 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 sanction is given for both Executive and Non - Executive Members to invest within their own Ward.

The Council's Constitution should be referred to for explicit guidance on governance.

Risk Management

9. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

10. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

11. That this project proposal to convert and adapt an underutilised room at Creunant Primary School into a multi-functional venue for wider community use is approved, and that Cllr Harris' allocation of £7,281.09 under the Members Community Fund be awarded.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

12. To approve the Application for funding that has been received under the Members Community Fund. Full Funding Applications can be made to the Members Community Fund until the end of the financial year. The Fund will then close. Funds left unallocated will be returned to Reserves.

Implementation of Decision

13. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

List of Background Papers

14. This Crynant initiative has been developed from the Members Community Fund Application Form submitted by Councillor Sian Harris, which has been retained for future reference. The first stage Impact Assessment documentation associated with this project proposal has also been retained.

15. Officer Contact

Paul Hinder, Project Development & Funding Manager, (ELLL).

Tel: 01639 763390, email: p.hinder@npt.gov.uk

